



Services for the Blind

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State of Hawaii

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State of Hawaii
Department of Human Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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HO`OPONO HALE

While in New Visions, students are able to live at the Ho`opono Hale, an off-site apartment complex where they apply the skills they learn in class. This is temporary housing while students are participating in the training. Students must vacate their apartments when they complete their training. Students learn to cook, clean, do laundry, shopping and other independent skills while living at the Hale as well as enjoying the company of fellow blind students.



FIELD CLASSES

While in New Visions training, students participate in monthly field classes in the community. The goal of the field class is to show students they can continue to enjoy activities now that they are blind. Also students get the chance to educate the public about blindness. In the past, students have gone fishing, horseback riding, camping, shopping at local malls and out to restaurants.



Services for the Blind

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
State of Hawaii

New Visions Program



MISSION

We create an environment where students gain the knowledge, skills and positive attitude they need to achieve success in life.

VISION

Blindness is not a barrier to success.

ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

Also known as cane travel, students learn how to properly use a long cane to navigate in a building, using stairs, walking on sidewalks, crossing streets and catching the city bus. In addition students also learn to find addresses, understand bus routes, grid patterns and use non visual cues to help them figure out directions. Ultimately, the blind person can go wherever they choose, independently.



TECHNOLOGY

In Technology class, students learn how to use a computer without a monitor and instead using JAWS, a screen reading software. Students learn to use the keyboard, navigate Windows, use Microsoft Office, e-mail and the Internet. In addition to the computer, students learn to use other technology such as iPhones, digital recorders, Victor Reader, note taking technology and other accessible devices.



WHAT IS NEW VISIONS?

New Visions is a training program focused on students learning blindness skills to gain confidence. We use the Structured Discovery™ method of instruction which entails students using sleepshades and the long cane to learn how to problem solve using alternative techniques. The training usually lasts anywhere from 9-12 months and takes place Monday through Friday from 7:30-3:00. Students who participate in New Visions will learn blindness skills in the five core classes: Braille, Technology, Personal & Home Management, Orientation & Mobility and Woodshop. In addition to these classes, each week students have Business of Being Blind (BOBB) class in which they talk about blindness issues to build their own positive philosophy of blindness.

* The New Visions Program is certified as a Structured Discovery Training™ Program by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB)

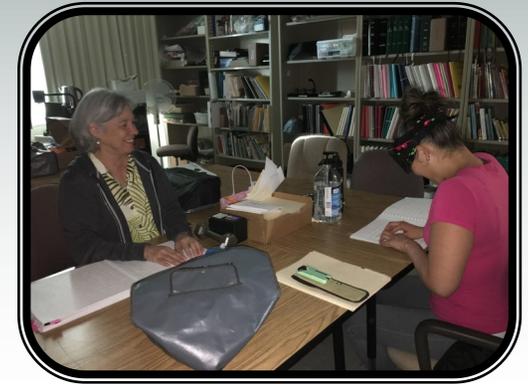
WOODSHOP

This class is not mainly to teach blind people woodworking skills but rather to build confidence. All the tools in the shop are those which any carpenter would use and no tool other than the click-rule is adapted for the blind. Using tools such as the table, ban, radial arm and chop saws as well as drill press, planar and jointer, students plan and build projects they keep for themselves. When a blind person builds tables, bookshelves and cuts boards accurately and precisely without vision, it builds confidence and shows that blindness need not be a limitation.



BRAILLE

Students learn how to read and write using Braille. From learning the alphabet to contracted Braille, students learn how Braille can be useful in reading, labeling and note taking. In addition to reading and writing Braille, students are introduced to different Braille devices such as the Perkins Brailier and the Braille Note.



PERSONAL & HOME MANAGEMENT

Similar to home economics, students learn to cook, clean and perform other domestic skills needed to remain independent. Students learn all types of cooking such as baking, grilling and deep frying. For their final project, students prepare a fine dining three course meal for six and five course buffet style meal for 20-30. In addition to cooking, students learn to budget finances, shop, identify & organize money, basic sewing, labeling clothing, laundry and other homemaking skills.

